



# Assessment Notes...

From the Standards and Assessment Division

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## New Tests for the General Education Degree (GED)

### Participants

- More than 860,000 adults worldwide take the GED Tests each year, over 55,000 in California in 2000.
- Those who obtain scores high enough to earn a GED credential exceeded the performance of at least 33% of traditional graduating high school seniors.
- One out of every seven people who finish their high school education each year earns a credential by passing the GED Test.
- Individuals must be within 60 days of their eighteenth birthday to take the GED in California.
- Scores on the GED may be used to qualify for Cal Grant scholarships.

### Administrative Changes

- People who are working toward their GED credential have until the end of December 2001 to pass the current GED Test.
- On January 1, 2002, GED Testing Centers throughout the United States and Canada will begin administering a new English-language edition of the test.

- Any GED candidate who has not successfully completed all five tests by January 1, 2002 will have to start again with the new series of tests to qualify for a GED credential.
- Scores from the current version (1988) of the GED Tests cannot be combined with or "converted to" scores on the new tests.

### Components That Will Remain the Same

GED will continue:

- To certify 12th grade ability in language arts (writing, reading, social studies, science, and mathematics).
- To measure the outcomes of a four-year program of secondary school education using the most up-to-date widely used secondary school curriculum standards and standardized assessment practices available.
- To cover language arts (writing and reading), social studies, science, and mathematics.
- To provide a basis for conferring a high school credential on adults who have not graduated from high school.

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This publication is designed to assist county, district, and school personnel who are responsible for state testing programs. This publication is produced by:

**Standards and Assessment Division  
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Phil Spears, Division Director**

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## Program Changes

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- Language Arts Writing Test is comprised of two parts, one part to test knowledge of the conventions of written English, and the second to test an examinee's ability to write. The scores earned on both components of the test will be combined and reported on a standard score scale as a single score.
- Mathematics Test will have two booklets: Part I permits the use of a calculator, Part II does not. Candidates must complete both parts of the test to earn a score.

**Note:** All GED candidates will be provided with a Casio fx-260 Solar calculator during Part I testing. Candidates will have an opportunity to practice using the calculator before testing begins.

- Social Studies Test – U.S. GED candidates can count on seeing at least one excerpt from the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, the Federalist Papers, or a landmark Supreme Court decision.

- Language Arts Reading Test candidates will continue to read and interpret fiction and nonfiction, prose, poetry, and drama from a variety of cultures and time periods. Nonfiction will include business-related documents.
- Science Test will ask candidates to select the best way to set up an experiment, interpret others' results, analyze experimental flaws, apply scientific conclusions to their personal lives, and use the work of renowned scientists to explain everyday global scientific issues.

## For More Information

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- GEDTS website: <http://www.gedtest.org>
- California GED website: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ged/>